

Appl. N . 09/446,550  
Atty. Docket No. CM-1519Q  
Amtd Dated May 24, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2004  
Customer No. 27752

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent core defining a core region comprising a core backsheet material;

a chassis region surrounding said core region comprising a chassis backsheet material;

whereby at least the core backsheet material comprises a laminate;

said laminate comprising at least one polymeric layer comprising a vapour or gas permeable film material, and further comprising a fibrous layer positioned towards the outer side of the article during its intended use,

characterized in that said at least one polymeric layer is a unitary layer extending both into the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material,

and whereby the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material which comprises said unitary layer are each breathable and exhibit different degrees of breathability such that MVTR value of the core backsheet material is lower than of the chassis backsheet material, as measured by calcium-chloride adsorbing moisture through each of said materials under an outside relative humidity of about 75 % at a temperature of about 40 °C, wherein said polymeric layer has a basis weight of greater than about 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> and comprises a polymeric matrix and particulate filler material embedded in said polymeric matrix and wherein said breathability is provided by cracks formed around said particulate filler material, at least a portion of said cracks being formed using an activation process whereby said laminate is passed through at least one roll pair, said roll pair comprising engaging ridges and grooves which provides a multiplicity of corrugations to at least a portion of said laminate.

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2. (Previously Presented) An absorbent material according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric layer is wider than the fibrous layer.
3. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that in the core region the MVTR is at least 500 g/24hr/m<sup>2</sup>.
4. (Original) Absorbent article according to claim 3 further characterised in that in the core region the MVTR is at least 1500 g/24hr/m<sup>2</sup>.
5. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that the MVTR values of the backsheet of the chassis region surrounding the core region are at least 20% higher than the MVTR values of the backsheet in the core region.
6. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that the MVTR values of the backsheet in the chassis region surrounding the core region are at least 500 g/24hr/m<sup>2</sup> higher than the MVTR values of the backsheet in the core region.
7. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 4, whereby the filler material is calcium carbonate.
8. An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said polymeric layer in the chassis region has a basis weight of less than 50 gsm.
9. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said laminate layer has a basis weight of less than 70 gsm where it comprises said polymeric layer and said fibrous layer.
10. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said fibrous layer is a non-woven web.

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11. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by heat or melt bonding.
12. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by extrusion coating.
13. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by adhesive.
14. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the article is a baby diaper or an adult incontinence article.

Claims 15-20 (Withdrawn)